Use of Voters Identity Card

*213. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Voters Identity Card issued by the Election Commission of India wherein it is clearly written, "This card may be used as an Identity Card under different Government Schemes" can be used in an application for a ration card;

(b) if so, whether any instructions have been given to various departments in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) According to the Election Commission of India, it has issued instructions to inscribe on the Voter Identity Card—"This card may be used as an identity card under different Government Scheme"—to enable use of the identity card under different Government schemes. The Election Commission has been pursuing the State Governments to issue necessary orders/instructions to various Departments under them to accept the voters' identity cards as means of identification in connection with various schemes and programmes executed by them. So far, the Government of Haryana has issued necessary instructions to all its Departments in this regard.

Meeting of Chief Ministers on growing incidence of AIDS

*214. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss the growing incidence of AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, the major decisions taken after deliberations and projects/ programmes to be initiated to check the growth of AIDS in the country;

(c) whether UN/WHO is lending assistance to India on its Anti-AIDS Projects and Programmes; and

(d) the role assigned to NGOs to counter the spread of AIDS and total fund allocations made thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes Sir. The Prime Minister convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the six high prevalence States of Andhra Pradesh,